

V. Plan Implementation

DCR-OWM staff will communicate, implement, monitor, enforce, and modify if necessary these updated policies and control mechanisms regarding public access on lands and waters in the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System beginning on January 1, 2006 (pending finalization and approval of Plan by DCR). The DCR will revoke expanded access policies if there are measurable negative impacts to water quality.

Because specific actions will change over time, implementation **Table 11** below outlines the responsible OWM Sections and their general focus areas for access plan implementation with specific items for fiscal year 2007.

Table 11 Yearly Implementation Plan (YIP) for FY07

Task #	General Task Description	Lead	Product(s)
Land Acquisition			
1	Complete assessments on all new acquisitions, including descriptions of fire/access roads, bridges, restoration needs, and forest conditions. Integrate these lands into existing land management, public access and other watershed management programs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update access maps, if applicable • Post updated maps on web • Print updated maps • Distribute updated maps 	EQ-GIS	Completed assessments
Other Environmental Regulations			
2	Continue to enforce the other DCR Watershed Protection regulations found in CMR 11.09. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor access at fishing areas • Report misinterpretations of policy to RD 	WR & WM	Year end report to RD
3	Continue to meet, as necessary, with DEP, DAR, EPA and other agencies to assure enforcement of, and compliance with, existing environmental regulations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare annual on-site inspection briefing for DEP (10/06) for waiver from filtration. • Satisfactory DEP inspection report 	EQ	Periodic meetings

Task #	General Task Description	Lead	Product(s)
Public Access Management			
4	Continue full implementation, oversight and evaluation of <i>Public Access Plan – Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System</i> and <i>Public Access Plan Update – Ware River Watershed</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yearly Implementation Plans (YIP) • Evaluate Quabbin Public Access plan and Ware River Public Access Plan • Develop FY08 YIPs • Brief staff on changes • Prepare errata sheet, if necessary 	RD	Annual evaluation; oversight; plan implementation
5	Continue to control and monitor other public access through an access permit system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise access permits for group, night, geocache activities • Maintain up-to-date permit database • Write OWM geocache policy • Monitor geocache sites posted on web and conduct field inspections 	IS & WR	Permits issued; records maintained
6	Continue to monitor and enhance compliance with Division's public access policies through the Watershed Ranger efforts of public education and enforcement of regulations and policies; ensure inter-departmental cooperation concerning access, recreational impacts, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute new brochures and maps • Feedback to Regional Director • Patrols • Special sting operations with EPOs (e.g., ATVs or biking) 	WR & IS	Field reports; education programs and materials; website; Daily logs
7	Develop materials (e.g., fact sheets, etc.) to inform visitors of access rules, policies, and general watershed protection information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational access brochures with maps • Develop access activity brochures with maps • Print brochures; Post on web • Distribute (e.g., kiosks, fishing areas, etc.) 	IS & EQ	Fact sheets, brochure
8	Continue to ensure enforcement of public access regulations through partnership with the State Police, EPOs, and other local Police departments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief EPOs and State Police (e.g., geocache, night access, snowmobile, watershed ponds, & collecting) • Schedule special monitoring activities 	WR	Enhanced enforcement; partnerships

Task #	General Task Description	Lead	Product(s)
9	<p>Develop and install updated signs throughout the watersheds, including trail signs and clear signs indicating access restrictions; update both signs and vehicles to new DCR logo; continue use of new sign machine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install 5 information kiosks in survey locations • Add updated signage to kiosks to include hours, maps, policies • Signage needed: wading, designated trails for bike and snowmobiles, do not feed wildlife, cross-country on OR lands, and wildlife viewing 	WM & IS	Signs produced as needed
10	<p>Analyze and mitigate water quality/erosion impacts of recreation or other public access activities through regular watershed inspections (EQA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Quality Assessments • Case-by-case mitigation activities 	EQ	Field reports; assessments; EQAs
11	<p>Inspect and maintain gates and barways throughout watershed for security and access control.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review locations of jersey barriers, modify if necessary (e.g., ROW access points) • Update gate lock/key system 	WM	Inspection; Repairs
12	<p>Continue to operate shoreline and boat fishing program in designated portions of the watershed in a manner that minimizes threats to reservoir water quality and that accommodates visitors with accessibility needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor use w/r to policy sheets (e.g., boat fishing, shoreline fishing) • Report conflicts to RD 	WM	Operate shore and boat fishing program; Annual report
13	<p>Review sanitation program based upon the needs of the new Access plan. Re-evaluate seasonal use patterns and locations of recreational usage. Inspect shorelines and other areas for sanitation problems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special shoreline inspection • Review Sani-can contract with regards to new bicycle routes and permanent sanitary facilities 	EQ	Completed survey of high use areas
Reservoir and Watershed Monitoring			
14	<p>Continue routine and non-routine water quality sampling and analysis in order to track water quality parameters and trends in the reservoir and tributaries. Write Annual WQ reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate trail anomalies as needed 	EQ	Weekly reports; Annual reports

Task #	General Task Description	Lead	Product(s)
Stormwater Management			
15	Design and implement stormwater BMPs around the reservoir to address erosion and sedimentation due to public access, stormwater runoff, and shoreline erosion; Construct stormwater BMPs on OWM property in accordance with set priorities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report stormwater impacts to WM w/ bmp recommendations. • Remove single track bicycle routes on DCR lands (documented in 2005) 	EQ	EQ file reports; BMP construction and maintenance
Interpretive Services			
16	Improve the educational signage (in conjunction with the implementation of the Public Access Plans) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Task #9 	IS	New signs

Key to Program Abbreviations:

ATS = Administrative and Technical Support
CE = Civil Engineering
EP = Environmental Planning
EQ = Environmental Quality
F = Forestry
GIS = GIS staff
IS = Interpretive Services
RD = Quabbin Regional Director
WR = Watershed Rangers
WM = Watershed Maintenance

Plan acronyms:

MOU = DCR/MWRA MOU (April 2004)

QPAP = Quabbin Public Access Management Plan Update (March 2006)

QLMP = Quabbin Land Management Plan (July 1995)

QWPP = Quabbin/Ware River Watershed Protection Plan Update (December 2000)

WRLMP = Ware River Land Management Plan (August 2003)

WRPAP = Ware River Public Access Management Plan (January 2000)

A. Enforcement

The OWM's Watershed Rangers are trained to educate the public on watershed regulations and to identify and communicate rules interventions as part of the Division's enforcement program. While rare there are times when the rangers must rely on police (state and local) to enforce the regulations. In addition, the MA Environmental Police provide rules enforcement for complementary state wide environmental regulations. Watershed Rangers are in radio contact with both the EPOs and State police and meet systematically with both these groups. These relationships are critical to the enforcement of DCR regulations.

Since 1999, the DCR Watershed Rangers have tracked their access rule enforcement interventions. **Table 12** shows the total rules interventions by type between 1999-2005. **Table 13** lists access permit monitoring by year.

Table 12 Watershed Ranger Interventions 1999-2005

Intervention Type	Number of Rule Interventions
Domestic Animals	919
Trespass	896
Bike/Sled/Ski	215
Swim/Wade	161
Boating	122
Fishing	98
Snowmobiles/ATV/M.V.	61
Cooking/Fires	51
Vandalism	47
Dumping/Littering	47
Alcohol	38
Metal Detecting	15
Permit Violations (see below)	15
Collecting	14
Firearms/Target Shooting	3
Disorderly Conduct	2
Harassment/Breach of Peace	3
Non-compliance	1
Feeding Wildlife	1
Parasailing/Aircraft Landing	2

Source: OWM Watershed Rangers, 2005

Table 13 Watershed Ranger Permit Monitoring 2001-2004

Permit Type	2001	2002	2003	2004
Research	15	15	134	279
Long Pond	55	55	55	54
Employee	0	0	34	50
Schools	39	49	31	45
Night Access	0	0	0	36
Clubs/Organizations	39	33	36	32
Former Residents	9	7	8	14
Businesses	23	16	37	9
National Grid	0	0	10	9
Weddings	16	13	8	5
Former Employees	0	0	0	3
Memorial Service	0	0	0	1
Animal Control	0	0	0	1
General Access	0	0	0	1
TOTALS	198	250	353	539

Source: OWM/Watershed Rangers, 2005

B. Public Education/Interpretive Services

Public education is a vital component of the Division's Watershed Protection strategy. The OWM strives to directly communicate not only what the rules and regulations are, but also why the rules are needed for drinking water supply protection. To this end, two different sections work on different fronts of public education and interpretative services. The Watershed Rangers speak informally with users while patrolling property. The Quabbin Visitor Center Staff conduct school programs for students within watershed communities, maintain the Quabbin Visitor Center and related programs.

C. Sanitation

The Environmental Quality section monitors existing and future locations for seasonal portable toilet locations and maintenance. The proper siting of portable toilets is important management control mechanism.

Permanent visitor sanitation facilities are located at the three boat launch areas (currently only open during the Quabbin fishing season), the Quabbin Tower, the main Administration Area (main building and hangar).

D. Structural Access Controls

Structural access controls such as locked metal and wooden gates, concrete barriers, and internal road intersection signage. Some gate systems may be modified to accommodate existing user groups while maintaining the structural integrity of the gates. The gate locking system will continue to be monitored by staff. OWM staff coordinates security with MWRA.

E. Signs

Due to the recent organization changes within the DCR, the OWM has been slowly replacing and updating signage. Signage consists of gate signage, tree signage, and kiosk signage. Kiosks will be installed at popular gate entry points (e.g., Gate 11, Gate 29, and Gate 40).

F. Mapping

Where applicable, public access maps will be improved to provide user with better location information. Maps will be available through the Watershed Rangers, Visitor Center, and on-line.

VI. Conclusion

The top priority of the DCR is to provide a safe and adequate supply of drinking water within the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System. Given the multitude of pressures for public access and the inherent complexity of each issue on drinking water supply lands and waters, the DCR takes a conservative attitude toward all land uses that might have a repercussion on the integrity of the water supply. While this conservative approach is often challenged by the public, an increasing strong message from others has been the acknowledgment and support of the need to establish limits. This has been acknowledged at public meetings where speakers have discussed the possibility of access issues causing a “death by a thousand cuts” and the public’s ability to “love Quabbin to death”. This Public Access Management Plan helps clarify the rules on watershed lands and allows for continued public access and recreation on substantial acreage where it does not pose a threat to the water supply.

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